





U.S. SOCCER

THE FOURTH OFFICIAL

An Exercise In Teamwork



The Fourth Official

TOPICS:

- Professionalism
- Specific Responsibilities:
 - Before The Match
 - During The Match
 - After The Match



Professionalism

- **Critical Member of Officiating Team**
- **Must Be Fully Prepared to:**
 - **Replace**
 - **Assist**
- **Role Set In The Laws of the Game**

More ...



Professionalism

- **Main Liaison Between Referee/ARs and:**
 - **Facility Managers**
 - **Security**
 - **Broadcasting**
 - **Team Officials**

More ...



Professionalism

- **Acts Early To Resolve Issues**
- **Maintains Composure And Professional Appearance**
- **Avoids Distractions From Core Duties**

More ...



Professionalism

- **Manages Bench/Technical Areas**
- **Endeavors To Prevent Unauthorized Entry Onto The Field**
- **Additional “Set Of Eyes”**

More ...



Professionalism

- **Acts Under General Authority Of Referee And In Referee's Name**
- **Resolves Issues, To The Extent Possible, Without Recourse To Referee**
- **Involves Referee As A Last Resort**



Professionalism

- **“Fully Prepared” Means:**
 - **Physical**
 - **Mental**
 - **Uniform and Equipment**
 - **Pre-Game Coordination**



Professionalism

- **“Replace” Means:**
 - **What Is Provided For In:**
 - **The Rules Of Competition**
 - **The Laws Of The Game**



**The Rules of Competition:
What is the order of priority if an official is unable to continue?
Who is replaced by whom?**

• **“Replacement” means:**

• **Who is Provided For In**

• **The Rules Of Competition**

• **The Laws Of The Game**

**In the absence of any pertinent Rule of Competition:
The Fourth Official can replace the referee or either
assistant referee**



Professionalism

- **“Assist” Means:**
 - **What Is Provided For In:**
 - **The Laws Of The Game**
 - **Guide For Fourth Officials**
 - **Referee Preferences And Needs**



Assistance

SPECIFICALLY NAMED RESPONSIBILITIES

- **Administrative Duties**
- **Substitution And Equipment Check**
- **Replacement Match Balls**
- **Delegated Inspections**
- **Observations**
- **Report**



Assistance

ADMINISTRATIVE DUTIES

- **Inspection Of Field**
- **Introduction To Team Officials**
- **Inspection Of Game Balls**
- **Briefing Of “Ball Persons”**
- **Inspection Of Bench/Technical Area**
- **Facility Security**

More ...



Assistance

ADMINISTRATIVE DUTIES

- **Retrieval/Securing Of Equipment At Game Breaks**
- **Location/Readiness of Facilities For Officiating Team**
- **Review With Team Officials General Procedures for Warming Up, Activities In Technical Area, Etc.**



Assistance

SUBSTITUTIONS

- **Confirms Identity And Proper Paperwork**
- **Inspects Uniform/Equipment**
- **Ensures Substitute Doesn't Enter Until Permitted**
- **Gains Attention Of Assistant Referee For Substitution Signal**

More ...



Assistance

SUBSTITUTIONS

- **If Both Teams Substituting:**
 - **Keeps Teams Separated**
 - **Handles Only One Team At A Time**
- **Properly Manages Substitution Board (If Used)**

More ...



Assistance

SUBSTITUTIONS

- **Maintains Substitution Log**
- **Ensures Substitutions Are In Accordance With Rules of Competition**



Assistance

REPLACEMENT MATCH BALLS

- **Maintains Control of Match Balls Not In Current Use**
- **Provides Replacement Ball From Reserve Supply When Needed**

More ...



Assistance

REPLACEMENT MATCH BALLS

- **Maintains Control of Match Balls Not In Current Use**
- **Provides Replacement Ball From Reserve Supply When Needed**

This duty is affected by whether “ball persons” are used in the match



Assistance

DELEGATED INSPECTIONS

- **Correction Of Illegal Equipment**
- **Bleeding Or Blood On The Uniform**
- **Responsibility Established In Pre-Game**
- **Procedures Settled For:**
 - **What Must Be Inspected**
 - **When Inspection Successfully Completed**



Assistance

OBSERVATIONS

- **Wrong Player Cautioned**
- **2nd Caution But No Send Off**
- **Violent Conduct Out Of View**
- **Irresponsible Behavior, Bench/Technical Area**



Assistance

REPORTS

- **Confirms Major Events At Mid-Game Break And At End Of Match**
- **Submits Independent Match Report Of Violence Not Seen**



The Fourth Official Review

Professionalism

- **Replace**
- **Assist**

More ...



The Fourth Official Review

Replace

- **Set By Competition**
- **Set By Law Otherwise**

More ...



The Fourth Official Review

Assist

- **Administrative Duties**
- **Substitution And Equipment Check**
- **Replacement Match Balls**

More ...



The Fourth Official Review

Assist

- Delegated Inspections
- Observations
- Reports



The Fourth Official

Additional Resources

- **Laws of the Game (“The Fourth Official”)**
- **Guide for Fourth Officials**
- **Guide to Procedures**